

is designated Minority Staff, shall be under the general supervision of the Ranking Minority Member and under the immediate direction of the Minority Staff Director.

(2) Any member of the Committee should feel free to call upon the staff at any time for assistance in connection with Committee business. Members of the Senate not members of the Committee who call upon the staff for assistance from time to time should be given assistance subject to the overriding responsibility of the staff to the Committee.

(3) The staff's primary responsibility is with respect to bills, resolutions, treaties, and nominations.

In addition to carrying out assignments from the Committee and its individual members, the staff has a responsibility to originate suggestions for Committee or subcommittee consideration. The staff also has a responsibility to make suggestions to individual members regarding matters of special interest to such members.

(4) It is part of the staff's duty to keep itself as well informed as possible in regard to developments affecting foreign relations and in regard to the administration of foreign programs of the United States. Significant trends or developments which might otherwise escape notice should be called to the attention of the Committee, or of individual Senators with particular interests.

(5) The staff shall pay due regard to the constitutional separation of powers between the Senate and the executive branch. It therefore has a responsibility to help the Committee bring to bear an independent, objective judgment of proposals by the executive branch and when appropriate to originate sound proposals of its own. At the same time, the staff shall avoid impinging upon the day-to-day conduct of foreign affairs.

(6) In those instances when Committee action requires the expression of minority views, the staff shall assist the minority as fully as the majority to the end that all points of view may be fully considered by members of the Committee and of the Senate. The staff shall bear in mind that under our constitutional system it is the responsibility of the elected Members of the Senate to determine legislative issues in the light of as full and fair a presentation of the facts as the staff may be able to obtain.

(b) RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) The staff shall regard its relationship to the Committee as a privileged one, in the nature of the relationship of a lawyer to a client. In order to protect this relationship and the mutual confidence which must prevail if the Committee-staff relationship is to be a satisfactory and fruitful one, the following criteria shall apply:

(i) members of the staff shall not be identified with any special interest group in the field of foreign relations or allow their names to be used by any such group;

(ii) members of the staff shall not accept public speaking engagements or write for publication in the field of foreign relations without specific advance permission from the Staff Director, or, in the case of minority staff, from the Minority Staff Director. In the case of the Staff Director and the Minority Staff Director, such advance permission shall be obtained from the Chairman or the Ranking Minority Member, as appropriate. In any event, such public statements should avoid the expression of personal views and should not contain predictions of future, or interpretations of past, Committee action; and

(iii) staff shall not discuss their private conversations with members of the Com-

mittee without specific advance permission from the Senator or Senators concerned.

(2) The staff shall not discuss with anyone the proceedings of the Committee in closed session or reveal information conveyed or discussed in such a session unless that person would have been permitted to attend the session itself, or unless such communication is specifically authorized by the Staff Director or Minority Staff Director. Unauthorized disclosure of information from a closed session or of classified information shall be cause for immediate dismissal and may, in the case of some kinds of information, be grounds for criminal prosecution.

RULE 15—STATUS AND AMENDMENT OF RULES

(a) STATUS.—In addition to the foregoing, the Committee on Foreign Relations is governed by the Standing Rules of the Senate which shall take precedence in the event of a clear inconsistency. In addition, the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the Committee with respect to certain matters, as well as the timing and procedure for their consideration in Committee, may be governed by statute.

(b) AMENDMENT.—These Rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by a majority of the Committee, provided that a notice in writing of the proposed change has been given to each member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken. However, Rules of the Committee which are based upon Senate Rules may not be superseded by Committee vote alone.●

APPOINTMENTS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-93, as amended by Public Law 99-151, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control:

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), Chairman;

The Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE); The Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM); and

The Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS).

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—S. RES.

45

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator HUTCHINSON, I ask unanimous consent that S. Res. 45 be star printed with the changes which are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—NOMINATION OF DAVID WILLIAMS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee be allowed to continue consideration until March 17 of the nomination of David Williams to be inspector general for tax administration. I further ask consent that if the nomination is not reported by March 17, that the nomination be automatically discharged and placed on the Calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR SEQUENTIAL REFERRAL—ROSE EILENE GOTTEMÖELLER

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that when the Energy Committee reports the nomination of Rose Eilene Gottemoeller to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nonproliferation and National Security, the nomination be sequentially referred to the Armed Services Committee for a period not to exceed 30 days. I further ask consent that if the committee has not reported the nomination at the end of this period, the nomination be automatically discharged and placed on the Calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1999

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 25. I further ask consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of Proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then begin consideration of S. Res. 45 regarding human rights in China, under the provisions of the consent agreement reached earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. I further ask consent that following the vote on adoption of S. Res. 45, the Senate begin a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions:

Senator COVERDELL or his designee in control of the first 45 minutes; Senator VOINOVICH, 10 minutes; Senator HUTCHINSON, 10 minutes; Senator DURBIN or designee, 60 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. WARNER. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will reconvene tomorrow at 11 a.m. and begin consideration of S. Res. 45, regarding human rights violations in China. Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour for debate on the resolution to be followed by a vote on adoption. That 1 hour is to be equally divided, Mr. President. After that vote, which is expected at approximately 12 noon, the Senate will begin a period of morning business to allow Senators to make statements and introduce legislation.

AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 1, 1999, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, there is another item just handed me, S. Res. 49. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 49, submitted by Senators MCCONNELL and DODD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 49) authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the period March 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, since 1989 the Rules Committee has reported out biennial funding authorizations for committees of the Senate for the two funding periods beginning on March 1. This policy has been strongly supported by the Senate's committee chairmen and ranking members. Before the Senate today is a resolution which authorizes committee expenditures for the remaining seven months of Fiscal Year 1999 at the 1998 salary baseline plus the January 1999 cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 3.1%, as authorized by the President pro tempore. Committees had been previously authorized from October 1st through February 28th by S. Res. 54, in the 105th Congress.

This resolution follows on the heels of one that Senator DODD, Ranking Member of the Rules Committee, and I submitted and which was passed on February 12, 1999, which suspended the requirements of paragraph 9 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and authorized a seven-year continuing resolution such as is before the Senate at this time.

As we informed committees in a joint letter on January 22, Y2K concerns had prompted the Senate's recent adoption of the new Financial Management Information System (FMIS). This new financial management system, which is designed to conform to the Federal Government's fiscal year that runs from October 1, to September 30, requires that we consider adjustments in the committee funding system. To allow all due deliberation, we determined that the wisest course was to authorize the committees through the balance of this fiscal year and use that time to carefully design a committee funding procedure in light of the new FMIS. To that end, the Rules Committee will be conducting hearings and seeking the input of the various Senate committees on these questions. And, of course, we invite the committees to make recommendations on baseline funding, full-time employee levels and

other concerns related to authorizing the balance of the biennium.

The interim funding resolution also authorizes the use of unexpended committee funds, as has been done in some form since 1989. Section 20 of this resolution authorizes the use of Special Reserves on a committee-by-committee basis. It also provides a mechanism to make unexpended funds as of the close of business on February 28, 1999, available to cover non-recurring needs for committees through September 30.

It should be noted that all of the unexpended funds represent previously authorized funds which have not been spent. They are not new authorized funds. This policy has successfully served as an incentive to reduce spending. Without it, the policy would effectively be to spend it or lose it with a predictable outcome that more money would be spent.

Mr. President, let me also add that this interim resolution does not increase FTE positions and reiterate that it provides for special reserves funding as needed. Further, this resolution keeps the total authorized amount within the appropriations previously authorized in the Fiscal Year 1999 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill for "Inquiries and Investigations."

I urge the Senate to adopt this resolution, and I yield the floor.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President: I am pleased to join with my distinguished colleague, the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration, Senator MCCONNELL, in introducing this resolution to provide for funding for the standing committees of the Senate. This resolution authorizes committee expenditures for the remaining seven months of Fiscal Year 1999. This resolution is being enacted pursuant to S. Res. 38, adopted on February 12, 1999.

Since 1989, the Committee has provided funding for the committees on a biennial basis. This has proved to be an effective management tool for assuring continuity of funding throughout a Congress. The Committee does not intend that this short-term funding resolution signal a departure from that tradition. Instead, this seven-month continuing resolution will allow the Rules Committee to consider the impact of changes in the Senate's financial management and accounting systems, which have been necessitated by Year 2000 (Y2K) concerns, on the committee funding cycle.

Under normal procedures, each committee would have reported its biennial funding resolution to the Senate by January 31, and the Rules Committee would have then acted to report an omnibus committee biennial funding resolution providing funding for the period March 1, 1999 through February 28, 2001. The Rules Committee will initiate that process in late spring, so that each committee will have the opportunity

to present its budget to the Rules Committee for action prior to enactment of a funding resolution for the remainder of the biennial period. During this period, the Committee will also seek input from the chairmen and ranking members of the standing committees with regard to changes in committee funding which may be required to conform to the Senate's new Y2K compliant financial system.

This resolution funds committees at the current baseline level, increased by a 3.1% salary cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). This resolution also authorizes the use of Special Reserves, which are the reprogrammed funds remaining in the appropriations account at the end of the committee funding cycle on February 28. These funds are made available to committees to meet unforeseen, non-recurring expenses. These funds are accessed by the joint request of the chairman and ranking member of the committee, and the joint approval of the chairman and ranking member of the Rules Committee.

I commend my colleague, the Chairman, for his efforts to bring this resolution to the Senate floor today. By adopting this resolution, we are ensuring continued funding for committees while at the same time allowing the Rules Committee to fully review the impact on committees of changes in the Senate financial management and accounting system.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. Res. 49 be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 49) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 49

SECTION 1. AGGREGATE AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out the powers, duties, and functions of the Senate under the Standing Rules of the Senate, and under the appropriate authorizing resolutions of the Senate, there is authorized for the period March 1, 1999, through September 30, 1999, in the aggregate of \$28,632,851, in accordance with the provisions of this resolution, for all Standing Committees of the Senate, for the Committee on Indian Affairs, the Special Committee on Aging, and the Select Committee on Intelligence.

(b) REPORTING LEGISLATION.—Each committee referred to in subsection (a) shall report its findings, together with such recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable, to the Senate at the earliest practicable date, but not later than September 30, 1999.

(c) EXPENSES OF COMMITTEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any expenses of a committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required—

(A) for the disbursement of salaries of employees of the committee who are paid at an annual rate;